

Contact Persons Together

by Alta Oxendine

What a wonderful experience of fellowship! If only each one of you could have been there with us last Thursday night.

"I want to show you a beautiful picture...Close your eyes for a few seconds...then open them...You will see some thing really beautiful."

We did.

"Look at the person sitting across from you. Look at all the people sitting around this room. This is truly a beautiful sight."

Bill Cadle, director of the literacy program, was speaking. Staff members and volunteers had come together at the Robeson County Church and Community Center. We were there to learn how to take the Center's adult tutoring program into our own local communities.

Bill (staff members are all called by first names) contrasted the composition of our group with a situation in another county. "There," he told us, "even the people involved in the literacy program are still working through problems of separation."

As he talked, I was remembering the way it was twenty years ago when I first came to Robeson County. There were three of everything, with little or no crossing over established boundary lines, even to speak to one another. "Perhaps the Robeson County Church and Community Center has had a part to play in helping to break down barriers and set up communication lines," I was thinking.

Since joining the Center's staff last March, I have had the thrilling experience of being involved with persons who are finding more "likenesses" than differences, as we join our hands in work, our hearts in fellowship. At the Center it is not the way we look on the outside but the way we feel on the inside which motivates us to reach out. Church and Community Center Bob Mangum describes this "reaching out" as a ministry of "meeting the needs of the whole person."

One goal of the Center, Bob believes, is "to bring about a kind of community of respect and a kind of community of optimism." During the past few years I have seen this process begin to unfold--as individuals learn to replace fear with a genuine love and concern for persons who have a different external appearance of denominational label.

As a staff member, I'm on the inside now, as far as the Center is concerned. I know we're not perfect. We have our share of faults. But it seems to me that we have a closer-knit, more representative "family" of workers than almost any other group in Robeson County.

At the meeting last Thursday night I listened to Bob Mangum, who has pastored Indian churches in this area for 18 years. I listened to Bill Cadle, a former high school teacher in Pennsylvania, who sees people as people. I listened to James McKinnon, a high school guidance counselor in Rowland, who was largely responsible for getting the Contact Persons together. I listened to Sidney Locks, pastor of Sandy Grove Baptist Church in Lumberton, and to Ray Ward, pastor of Calvary Pentecostal Holiness Church. While both have been involved in contacting volunteer tutors, Ray gave a report Thursday night on the Center's casework program being carried out by Matilda Hoeker, of Prospect, and Carol Oxendine, of the Union Chapel community.

I listened intently as Ruth Mundy, an active member of Chestnut Street Methodist Church, explained the many services provided by the Senior Citizen program which she directs through the Center. I listened to a number of other staff members who are working to help alleviate a great variety of needs of persons living in this county. Their dedication is inspiring! They really care enough to work hard for their "brothers" and "sisters" with special problems.

The young men who planned this meeting for Contact Persons were hired only as short-term summer workers. But they have thrown their talents, imagination, and energy into finding more effective methods of making the tutoring program work in each local community. It is obvious that they have a dream. Through the tutoring program they hope to prepare individual adults to join the Adult Basic Education classes throughout the county, where they will have the opportunity to develop more advanced skills in the "3R's."

The long-range goal of the Center's literacy program is to eventually make available to every person in Robeson County the reading and writing tools for building a better life.

Persons attending the meeting from the Pembroke-Prospect area included: Mary Lee Goins, Vernon Hazel Locklear, and Bobby Carpenter.

Bobby Carpenter is a pre-ministerial student at Pembroke State University. Though he and his wife are from Stanley County, they have been active participants at First Methodist Church, Pembroke, during the past year. Bobby, who has completed the workshop for tutors, will be working this fall with the Center's Senior Citizen transportation program for a special religion course which he is taking.

"Miss" Vernon Hazel and "Miss" Mary Lee are volunteer tutors who have also agreed to be "contact persons" between the Center and other local volunteer tutors.

Along with my other duties--tutoring youth and adult students and helping with publicity for the Center, I am also serving as one of the "contact persons" in the Pembroke community.

Listed below are our telephone numbers and times to call: Vernon Hazel Locklear--after 6:00 p.m.--521-4323

Alta Oxendine--any day but Wednesday--521-4619

On Wednesdays (Center) -- 738-5204

Mary Lee Goins--9:00-11:00 a.m.--521-4427  
4:30-6:00 p.m.--Rudy's Restaurant. (Or come by Bayside Service Station--between 6:30 and 10:00 p.m.)



Oceannus Lowry is presented Jaycee of the Month Certificate by Jaycees' President Larry T. Brooks as Ways and Means Vice-President Willie Harris, Jr. looks on. (Bill Hunt Photo)

Its sort of out of the ordinary to have two Jaycees of the Month for one month, but when more than one person is deserving, it is only fitting and proper that they both be recognized.

Jaycees of the Month for July are Ricky Jones (not available for photo) and Oceannus Lowry. Both are relatively new members of the Pembroke Jaycees and just doing a bang-up job for the Jaycees and their community.

Ricky is a senior at Pembroke State University majoring in Sociology with emphasis in Criminology. He is self-employed along with his father M.S. Jones, Jr. in Jones' Hardware.

He is also chairman of the Pembroke Jaycees' Bloodmobile to be held September 22 from 12:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. at the Jaycees' Clubhouse. This will be Robeson County's first community bloodmobile.

Oceannus is employed by Libby-Owens Ford Glass of Laurinburg. He is a general foreman and has been associated with I.O.F. for three and one half years.

He is married to the former Mary Dicie Locklear and they are the proud parents of two sons, Oceannus Denene, 13, and Oryan Doyle, 4.

Rev. C.E. Locklear & Rev. Zimmie R. Chavis honored



Said Rev. C. E. Locklear in whose honor Locklear Court is named: "I was born in a log cabin...but I didn't stay there."

And nether do you...." To the left is Clarence Locklear, son of Rev. C. E. Locklear, and chairman of the Board of Commissioners of the Housing Authority. Clinton Thomas, Jr., executive director of the Housing Authority, presents the plaque of recognition to Rev. C. E. Locklear. (Bruce Barton photo)

Said Rev. C. E. Locklear as he accepted a plaque of dedication in his behalf, "I was born in a log cabin... but I didn't stay there." And he added, "I am proud that you have honored me by naming Locklear Court in my behalf. This means that no one will have to live in a log cabin if they don't want to..."

Rev. C. E. Locklear, a minister for more than 50 years, and the first Indian mayor elected by popular vote in Pembroke, has lived an illustrious life. He remembered days when he was a banker of sorts "because the regular bank wouldn't lend our people money." His honor was shared by a number of his twelve living children who shared the proud moment with him.

His name was submitted by Mrs. Bertine Pine, his neighbor, and longtime secretary to Chancellor English E. Jones of PSU.

One of the two new low rent housing projects will be named in his honor-- Locklear Court.

The two new housing developments-- Chavis Park and Locklear Court were officially dedicated last Thursday afternoon on the grounds of Locklear Court.

Some 150 townspeople and officials braved intermittent rains and high winds to pay tribute to Rev. C. E. Locklear and the late and beloved Rev. Zimmie R. Chavis.

Rev. Jim Chavis, the 81-year young son of the late Rev. Zimmie R. Chavis, accepted the plaque of appreciation in behalf of his father whom Mr. Jim said, "taught me things about life that I have never found in a dictionary--real things that count."

Three members of the Chavis family submitted the name of Rev. Zimmie R. Chavis for the honor of naming Chavis Park in his memory.

The two tributes were in response to a public appeal made by Clinton L. Thomas, Jr., executive director of the Pembroke Housing Authority and Redevelopment Commission who asked the public through the medium of The Carolina Indian Voice to submit names worthy of consideration.

Special guests were Jerry Dodson and Richard Barnwell, director of the N. C. Office of Housing and Urban Development who during his remarks told the audience that Pembroke would also be the recipient of a grant to build a day care center at Chavis Park.

Barnwell also lauded the local Indian sub-contractors who handled a million dollars worth of work in the two projects without a hitch.

Dodson, who substituted for Dr. Larnie Horton, special assistant to Gov. Holshouser on Minority Affairs, is head of the N. C. Office of Minority Business Enterprises.

The Pembroke Housing Authority and Redevelopment Commission later hosted a reception and dinner at Sim's Restaurant in Pembroke for guests and friends.

Birth Announcement

Mr. and Mrs. Olin Furr of Pembroke announce the birth of a son, Brandon Elliott on August 24 in Scotland Memorial Hospital.

Mrs. Furr is the former Rose Jacobs.

Brandon's grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Jacobs of Pembroke and Mr. and Mrs. Charles Blackwelder of Concord.

The Furr's have one other son, Brock Morance, age 13 months.

Get Well

If you're sick or injured, and unable to work, you'll pay the mortgage? And the food bill? And all the other expenses until you are well again? Nationwide's Disability Income Protection plans can help.

Call for details.

Advertisement for Nationwide Mutual Insurance Company featuring a photo of Willie Van Lowry and the Nationwide logo.



Clinton Thomas, Jr. presents a pin to Richard Barnwell, the state's HUD officer in honor of "his assistance to our town in assuring that every citizen has a decent place to live." (Bruce Barton photo)



Rev. Jim Chavis, son of the late and beloved Rev. Zimmie R. Chavis, accepts the plaque of appreciation in the name of his father. The beautiful Miss

Locklear, Linda Locklear, makes the presentation. Mr. Chavis quoted a poem that seemed to sum up the life of

his father: "Lives of great men all remind us, we can make our lives sublime and departing leave behind us footprints in the sand of time."

Large advertisement for J. Earl Musselwhite, Register of Deeds, Robeson County, featuring a photo and text about his 12 years of governmental experience.

U.S. POSTAL SERVICE STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT AND CIRCULATION form for The Carolina Indian Voice Weekly.



Advertisement for Rubber Stamps, featuring a photo of a rubber stamp and text about various types available.

